Claims:

1. A process for generating ¹O₂ which comprises treating an Sn(II) salt of the formula

SnX_n (I)

in which X is an anion from the group consisting of trifluoromethanesulfonate, acetate, formate, oxalate, lactate, malonate, malate, tartrate, citrate, orthophosphate, sulfate, chloride, perchlorate and n is 1 or 2, in an organic solvent at a temperature of from -80°C to 20°C with 1 to 2 mol of ozone per mole of tin compound, and using the $^{1}O_{2}$ which forms directly for the oxidation of organic substrates which react with $^{1}O_{2}$.

- 2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Sn(II) salt used is tin(II) trifluoromethanesulfonate or tin(II) acetate.
- 3. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic solvent used is ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, dichloromethane or acetic acid.
- 4. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction temperature is -80 to -5°C.
- 5. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein one equivalent of ozone is used.
- 6. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a solution of an organic substrate which reacts with ${}^{1}O_{2}$ is metered in during the reaction of the Sn(II) salt with ozone.
- 7. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a solution of an organic substrate which reacts with $^{1}O_{2}$ is metered in after the reaction of the Sn(II) salt with ozone, following removal of any excess ozone.

8. The process as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the solvent used for the substrate is ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, dichloromethane or acetic acid.